

10² a large control rod comprising four control rod blades extending radially from a central portion and arranged at right angles to each other, said blades defining four quadrants of said fuel cell, each said quadrant containing only four separate independent fuel bundles, each said separate independent fuel bundle comprising a handle to facilitate lowering said fuel bundle into said core;

said plurality of fuel cells arranged so that said control rods are in a staggered row pattern where each side of each said quadrant of a fuel cell is adjacent to a control rod blade.

10. (four times amended) A nuclear reactor core configuration, said core comprising a plurality of separate independent fuel bundles and a plurality of large control rods, each said separate independent fuel bundle comprising a handle to facilitate lowering said fuel bundle into said core, each said control rod comprising four control rod blades extending radially from a central portion and arranged at right angles to each other, said blades defining four fuel bundle receiving channels, said configuration comprising:

said plurality of large control rods arranged in a staggered row pattern; and

said fuel bundles arranged with only four separate independent fuel bundles in each said receiving channel and two sides of each of said four separate independent fuel bundles adjacent a control rod blade.

Remarks

The Office Action dated March 14, 2003, and made final, and the Advisory Action dated May 22, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.